



June 18, 2021

Media Release

Hanover DASH \$6 Co-Pay Returns After 1 year

Established in December 2019, Hanover DASH is proud to continue providing personalized transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, errands, employment and formal social programs for those 60+ and persons with a disability.

When Hanover DASH celebrated 6 months of continuous operation on June 12, 2020, our community was in the midst of a global pandemic. Recognizing the financial impacts, Hanover County announced that the usual \$6.00 one-way trip fee would be waived until further notice. This support over the past year has had a significant impact for the program as well as for the individuals that it serves.

During the first six months of the service (December 2019 - June 2020), Hanover DASH had 145 registered riders and provided 608 trips. As of June 14, 2021 (just over 18 months since the program began), the service has grown to 316 registered riders and has provided a total of 5,556 trips. This growth demonstrates the importance of this service. The majority of trips continue to be for medical appointments and errands but employment is also a growing number of rides. Currently the actual trip costs range from \$24 to \$59. In the coming year trip costs are anticipated to grow.

Beginning July 1, Hanover DASH will reinstate the rider co-pay of \$6.00 per one-way trip. The continued growth of the program, along with the lessening of COVID restrictions and rising transportation costs, were factors in this decision. Hanover DASH and Hanover County are committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of this important service to our community and appreciates the willingness of riders to support the service in this way.

Several other program enhancements, which were also announced in June 2020, will continue. These include: increased hours of operation (6am - 6pm); additional medical facilities that were beyond the 7-mile buffer around the county boundary; and adding employment as an approved trip type.

To apply to be a Hanover DASH rider, a short registration form is required along with documentation to confirm Hanover County residency and proof of age (60 or over) or disability (short- or long-term).

For more details call 804-365-DASH (3274) or visit www.HanoverDASH.org .